

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of selling healthcare services to a patient, the method comprising:  
establishing a plurality of contracting healthcare service providers;

5 providing a case statement template having one or more areas to specify clinical and non-clinical requirements of the patient;  
receiving case statement information, at least a portion of which is provided by the patient;  
preparing a case statement based on the case statement information;

10 delivering the case statement to at least one contracting healthcare service provider; and  
receiving a response from the at least one contracting healthcare service provider, the response including a price, a clinical track record, and service information.

15 2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the response includes information concerning one or more clinical quality indicators for one healthcare service provider.

3. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the one or more clinical quality indicators includes the mortality rate for a medical procedure.

4. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the one or more clinical quality indicators includes the number of times a medical procedure has been performed.

20 5. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the one or more clinical quality indicators includes the number of times a medical procedure has been performed by a physician associated with one of the one or more contracting healthcare service providers.

25 6. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising reviewing the proposal from the at least one healthcare service provider.

7. A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein reviewing the proposal from the at least one healthcare service provider includes reviewing the proposal with a referring physician.

8. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the proposal includes information 5 concerning the total cost of a medical procedure.

9. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising securing the services of a responding healthcare service provider by sending a deposit to the responding healthcare service provider.

10. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising securing the services of a responding healthcare service provider by sending a deposit to a marketplace operator and sending a remaining amount to the responding healthcare service provider.

11. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein preparing a case statement from case statement information includes filtering unique identifying information.

12. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising scheduling an outpatient visit with the patient and a staff member of the at least one contracting healthcare service provider.

13. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the price is a not-to-exceed amount.

14. A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the price includes the combined charges of a facility of the at least one contracting healthcare service provider and the 20 principal professionals performing the healthcare services.

15. A system of selling healthcare services, the system comprising:

a database of contracting healthcare service providers;

a healthcare case statement information submission mechanism including areas for a patient's clinical and non-clinical requirements;

25 a healthcare case statement distribution engine to deliver case statements to healthcare service providers;

a proposal construction engine including clinical quality indicator areas; and

a response-receiving engine to receive responses from healthcare service providers and to deliver the responses to the patient.

16. A system as claimed in claim 15, further comprising a database of patients.

17. A system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the response reviewing engine 5 checks responses for clinical quality indicators.

18. A system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the clinical quality indicators include the mortality rate for a medical procedure.

19. A system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the clinical quality indicators include the number of times a medical procedure has been performed.

10 20. A system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the clinical quality indicators include the number of times a medical procedure has been performed by a physician associated with one particular response.

21. A system as claimed in claim 15, further comprising a referring physician template.

15 22. A system as claimed in claim 15, further comprising a contact mechanism including a number of input mechanisms to construct a message.

23. A system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the proposal construction engine checks responses for a price of healthcare services listed therein.

24. A system as claimed in claim 15, further comprising a billing module.

20 25. A system as claimed in claim 15, further comprising at least one patient terminal coupled to the case statement information submission mechanism.

26. A system as claimed in claim 15, further comprising at least one service provider terminal coupled to the healthcare case statement distribution engine.

27. A system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the healthcare case statement 25 submission mechanism; the healthcare case statement distribution engine; the proposal construction engine; and the response-receiving engine are located on a server.

28. A method of selling healthcare services to a patient, the method comprising:

establishing a plurality of contracting healthcare service providers;

providing a case statement template having one or more areas to specify clinical and non-clinical requirements of the patient;

5 extracting case statement information, at least a portion of which is provided by the patient, from the case statement template;

preparing a case statement based on the case statement information;

establishing case statement profile criteria for each of the plurality of contracting healthcare service providers;

10 making the case statement available to each contracting healthcare service provider whose profile criteria matches the case statement; and

receiving a response to the case statement from at least one contracting healthcare service provider, the response including a price, a clinical track record, and non-clinical information.

15 29. A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the response includes information concerning one or more clinical quality indicators for one healthcare service provider.

30. A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the one or more clinical quality indicators includes the mortality rate for a medical procedure.

20 31. A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the one or more clinical quality indicators includes the number of times a medical procedure has been performed.

32. A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the one or more clinical quality indicators includes the number of times a medical procedure has been performed by a physician associated with one of the one or more contracting healthcare service providers.

25 33. A method as claimed in claim 28, further comprising reviewing the proposal from the at least one healthcare service provider.

34. A method as claimed in claim 33, wherein reviewing the proposal from the at least one healthcare service provider includes reviewing the proposal with a referring physician.